[President.]

Morale of the Excise Department.

31. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they are aware that there is a strong feeling in the country that corruption and other malpractices are rampant in the Excise Department; and

(ii) whether they are aware that, in the recent Excise Conference held in the Excise Commissioner's office, under the presidency of the Excise Commissioner, for concerting measures for the improvement of the Excise Department, one of the Senior Second Grade Excise Commissioners stated that, under the present system, no officer of the department was free from corruption, and that, as such, the whole system should be overhauled?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner has forwarded the detailed minutes of the meeting and the written memoranda submitted by some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners, and, if not, will they be pleased to call for them and examine the same along with the proposals submitted by the Excise Commissioner, and refer such memoranda to the Excise Committee appointed to examine the proposals of the Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) No such statement was made by any Assistant Excise Commissioner at the conference in the Excise Commissioner's office.

(*b*) Government have called for and perused the papers connected with the conference which the Excise Commissioner held with his Assistants for considering the proposals to be placed before the committee appointed in pursuance of the resolution moved by Mr. Madhava Variar at the first session of the Legislative Council, regarding the prohibition of the manufacture and importation of liquor. They do not consider it necessary to refer all these papers to the committee, as Mr. Van Ross has already placed before it a memorandum based upon the discussions at the conference and as the committee has practically wound up its labours.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have not received complaints from many people regarding malpractices and corruption in this department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): From whom?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Shop-keepers and all sorts of people.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question seems to be indefinite, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Complaints in what shape, Mr. Hoogewerf?

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Complaints that officers were receiving *kattippanam* and so on and so forth.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have seen newspaper reports and references by members in the Council to *kattippanam* and so forth.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not a rich and influential Roman Catholic gentleman from Minachil, who was a member of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly last year, come to Trivandrum lately and present a complaint about the manner in which the recent Abkari auctions were conducted, bringing serious allegations of corruption against the officers concerned?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I saw such a complaint in a newspaper.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I ask whether this complaint was personally presented to the Government.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that the members of the Popular Assembly, including leading vakils like Mr. Mallur Govinda Pillai and some of the leading members of this Council, have brought to the notice of the Assembly and the Council the malpractices rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There have been some complaints both in the Council and in the Assembly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have not most of the leading newspapers in the State brought to the notice of the Government the malpractices and corruptions said to be rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There have also been references to corruption in newspapers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that such an impression has gained ground in the country, especially after the present head of the department had the boldness to recommend the cancellation of a notification which appeared in the *Gazette* bringing the taluks held by Mr. Nadar under the independent shop system?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have one more question. Are the Government aware that the Head of the Administration has stated in court that Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar had stated during a conference that corruption—

PRESIDENT: Do you mean the head of the department?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, the head of the department. Did not the head of the department state in court that

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar had stated in a conference that corruption was rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The deposition of Mr. Van Ross is not before the Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it not been reported in newspapers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The report was to the effect that Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar spoke about corruption, but not that it was rampant—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross's deposition is not before the Government, and it is only after seeing the authorised version that anything can be said in regard to its contents.

Morale of the Excise Department.

32. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they are aware that there is a strong feeling in the country that corruption and other malpractices are rampant in the Excise Department; and

(ii) whether they are aware that, in the recent Excise Conference held in the Excise Commissioner's office, under the presidency of the Excise Commissioner, for concerting measures for the improvement of the Excise Department, one of the senior Second Grade Excise Commissioners stated that, under the present system, no officer of the department was free from corruption, and that, as such, the whole system should be overhauled?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner has forwarded the detailed minutes of the conference and the written memoranda submitted by some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners, and, if not, will they be pleased to call for them and examine the same along with the proposals submitted by the Excise Commissioner, and refer those memoranda to the Excise Committee appointed to examine the proposals of the Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 31.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഷാപ്പുലേലത്തിനു മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു പോയപ്പോൾ വടശ്ശേരി ഷാപ്പു ന്യായപ്രകാരം ലേലം നടത്തീട്ടില്ല എന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു പരാതി കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ പരസ്യമായി നടക്കുന്ന ലേലം കൂട്ടുതൽ തുകയ്ക്കു വിളികൊള്ളുന്ന

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